



MLD-012-A (1-91)

Update

JULY 1996

Arizona Department of Economic Security
Division of Developmental Disabilities

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is required for voting in federal and state elections. With the 1996 primary and general elections approaching, voter registration deadlines to be aware of are: The deadline for voter registration in the September 10, 1996 primary election is August 12, 1996 and for the November 5, 1996 general election, the deadline is October 7, 1996. Voter registration is

permanent and reregistration is necessary only if there is a change of name, address, or party affiliation.

DDD, in compliance with the NVRA (National Voter Registration Act), has voter registration forms available at local DDD offices. Case managers can assist in the completion of the form and in finding answers to general information questions regarding registration and voting.

WHY VOTE?

(Reprinted with permission from the "Word From Washington" January 1996 issue, published by the United Cerebral Palsy Associations.)

"Cuts to services for adults with disabilities and to families that have children with disabilities are making news daily. Legislative proposals to block grant and consequently re-structure services are pending enactment at federal and state levels. Customers of such services should have the fullest opportunity to participate in the political process as programs restructure. Many such persons, unfortunately, are not registered to vote.

"There are 65 million unregistered citizens nationally, or two out of three in households below the national median income level. The fate of human services delivery agencies could well be decided at the polls in the next round of local, state and federal elections!

"The National Voter Registration Act, often referred to as NVRA or "Motor Voter", requires states to remedy this problem by permitting registering voters at state-funded offices that provide services to people on AFDC, food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, drivers' licensing or disability services. The NVRA specifically permits private sector voter registration such as by UCPA affiliates or other nonprofit groups.

"Disability services agencies can accomplish voter registration as a service they offer in conjunction with other service provision as a nonpartisan public service. This can be accomplished at reception desks, during intake processes, during special events and it can be conducted as part of the routine business of the agency or organization.

"Studies indicate that seventy percent of people who are registered to vote by volunteer canvassers in human services offices, actually go to the polls in presidential elections. And their votes will determine election outcomes. The 1994 elections were determined by differences in registration and turnout, for instance. A side or party or group who registers voters and gets its supporters to the polls, gets its candidate to win. Conservative candidates

benefitted from the growing capacity of the religious right to register and to activate constituents through church auditoriums, televangelist shows and talk radio. Organized labor, on the other hand, which traditionally used to conduct outreach and to register and assist people to the polls, has shrunk in the wake of deindustrialization and thus now makes less impact at the polls.

"If disability services organizations ensured voter registration of every adult with a disability that they serve and their family members, the power of the disability vote bloc on public policy would be significant. Registering voters is a public service activity that will facilitate advancing the independence of people with disabilities and will help sustain one of the world's most diverse democracies.

"Data demonstrate that 1 to 3 points of President Elect Bush's 7 point margin of victory (was) directly attributable to the swing in disabled voters from their traditional Democratic leanings toward the President-Elect after he pledged to include disabled voters in the mainstream."

- from a letter to Governor John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff Designee for President-Elect George Bush, November 29, 1988, from Louis Genevie, Ph.D., Vice President, Louis Harris & Associates, Inc., as a result of a study entitled 'Voting Intentions During the 1988 Election: A Comparison of Disabled and Non-Disabled Voters'

ARIZONA'S VOTER REGISTRATION QUALIFICATIONS ARE THAT YOU:

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be eighteen years of age or older on or before the date of the general election.
- Must be an Arizona resident twenty-nine days preceding the election.
- Must be able to write your name or make your mark, unless prevented from so doing by physical disability.
- Must not have been convicted of treason or a felony, unless civil rights have been restored.
- Must not have been adjudicated an incapacitated person as defined by A.R.S. § 14-5101.

WHAT ABOUT VOTING AT THE POLLS?

(Reprinted with permission from the "Word From Washington" January 1996 issue, published by the United Cerebral Palsy Associations.)

"The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-435) says that 'any handicapped or elderly voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place, upon advance request of such voter (pursuant to procedures established by the chief election officer of the state) will be assigned to an accessible polling place or will be provided with an alternative means for casting a ballot on the day of election.' [Sec.3(a)(1)(B)]

"This means that if a person with a disability knows that the usual voting site for their precinct or ward is inaccessible they may request, in advance, to go vote in another place that is accessible or be given an alternative, such as an absentee ballot.

"This act also states that in FEDERAL elections 'no notarization or medical certification shall be required of a handicapped voter with respect to an absentee ballot or an application for such ballot, except that medical certification may be required when the certification establishes eligibility, under state law....' [Sec.5(b)]

"This means that medical certification or notarization cannot be required in order to vote in federal elections. The story may be quite different for local elections and these two procedures may be required in order to register or secure an absentee ballot form. Check with your local election board on this for your state.

"This law may permit certain persons with disabilities who are away from their home during an election, e.g., hospitalization or other disability-related activity, to send in an absentee ballot, or it may also permit the caregiver of a person with a disability, such as a parent of a child with a disability or the spouse of a person who is frail elderly, to cast an absentee ballot. The only way to see if this is possible is to check with the local election board as local laws vary widely from county to county on absentee balloting for non-federal elections."

ARIZONA'S POLLING PLACE VOTING

Voters with disabilities may request that a member of the Special Elections Board deliver a ballot to their place of residence or confinement and assist them in voting. Other accommodation requests, such as language interpretation, should be made by contacting the county recorder's office or the Secretary of State's Election Office. Requests for either, should be made as early as possible during the period of 93 days before the election, but no later than the second Friday or 11 days prior to the election.

WHAT ABOUT VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOTING?

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"Despite large efforts by individuals with disabilities and advocates at the local level, and despite the ADA, individuals with disabilities may still experience considerable difficulty getting to the ballot box even if they are registered and willing to vote. For instance, while the precinct voting site may be accessible other barriers to voting exist: bad weather can disrupt many transportation arrangements; lack of or insufficient designated 'handicapped' parking; difficulty getting out of the house or down broken or icy steps; travel and child care arrangements, for both parents with disabilities who have children and for parents of children with disabilities; management of time and payment of personal care assistants to assist while executing one's civil right to vote; as well as having to communicate with sometimes unsympathetic, or patronizing or otherwise uninformed persons at election offices or polling sites can all contribute to deterring even the most zealous voter. Absentee balloting is one solution to this problem until accessibility at the polling place occurs in reality or until alternative methods of voting are permitted (e.g., electronic, mail-in or telephone voting)."

ARIZONA 1996 DATES TO REMEMBER

(for Federal and State Elections)

	<u>Primary Election</u>	<u>General Election</u>
Deadline for registering to vote:	08/12/96 midnight	10/07/96 midnight
Early (absentee) ballot can be requested:		
in person between	08/08/96 to 09/06/96	10/03/96 to 11/01/96
in writing or orally	06/09/96 to 09/06/96	08/04/96 to 11/01/96
Voting by early (absentee) ballot		
must be received by the county	09/10/96 by 7:00 p.m.	11/05/96 by 7:00 p.m.
Voting at the polls:	09/10/96	11/05/96

ARIZONA'S EARLY (ABSENTEE) VOTING

Any registered voter may request an early (absentee) ballot from the county recorder's office in person, by mail or by telephone by providing the following information:

- Name
- Residence address
- Birth date
- Election for which ballot is needed
- Mailing address

ARIZONA TELEPHONE INFORMATION

County	<u>Recorder</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>TTY</u>
Apache		520-337-4364	520-337-4402
Cochise		520-432-9278	520-432-9297
Coconino		520-779-6585	520-779-6583
Gila		520-425-3231	520-425-0839
Graham		520-428-3560	520-428-3562
Greenlee		520-865-2632	520-865-2632
La Paz		520-669-6136	520-669-8400
Maricopa		602-506-1511	602-506-1517
Mohave		520-753-0701	520-753-0769
Navajo		520-524-4190	520-524-4299
Pima		520-740-8101	520-740-8093
Pinal		520-868-7101	520-868-7166
Santa Cruz		520-761-7800	520-761-7816
Yavapai		520-771-3248	520-776-7253
Yuma		520-329-2061	520-329-2063
Secretary of State 602-542-8683 or 800-458-5842 or TTY 602-255-8683			

CONFERENCE

Transitioning Long-Term Care into Managed Care conference, July 18-19, 1996, being held in San Francisco, California, will address the concerns of payers and providers in transitioning to a managed long-term care system. ALTCS, Arizona's state-wide system of managing healthcare will be one program exemplified. For more information or to register call 800-868-7188.

MEETINGS

The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) will hold the next public forum Tuesday, July 9, 1996, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Antelope Point Industries, 2727 East Lake Valley Road, Prescott Valley, AZ. For more information call Charlie Jones at 602-542-6822.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Emily Center (Emily Anderson Family Learning Center) is a no charge medical/consumer-health library for the public. The library contains over 1,200 books for adults and teens, 400 books for children and 150 videos on information about child health and illness. Also, information is available about local and national support groups and agencies related to a health concern. Hours for the library are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the 909 E. Brill, Outpatient Center. Information can be checked out and sent and returned through the mail. For more information call 602-239-6902.

WORKSHOPS

Three workshops on Social Role Valorization are tentatively set for the middle of August 1996 in the Casa Grande area. The themes being considered for the workshops are:

"Power of Roles"

"Supporting a Meaningful Life During the Day"

"What is a Home?"

Darcy Miller-Elks presented a three day workshop last December that was well received. Darcy, from Norriston, Pennsylvania, is well respected in her roles as a friend and advocate for people who are devalued, as an educator, and as a parent of a child with a disability. She has a busy schedule with presentations in North America, England and Australia. To have her again in Arizona is a valuable educational opportunity.

For more information contact any local DDD District Training Coordinator or call Manny Torres, State-wide Training Coordinator, at 602-542-6862.



PUBLISHED BY:

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Department of Economic Security
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P.O. Box 6123
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6123
Editor: Betty Waldrip, 602- 542-6809
Deadline for articles for August issue: July 10

Site Code: 810Z-1
DHS/DBF
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Site Code 791A
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FAMILY SUPPORT SUCCESS

THANKS MANNY VARGAS, DDD CASE MANAGER

(Submitted for print by the Strickler Family: Travis, Danyale, Chad and Dominick, in appreciation of the efforts made by District I's Case Manager Manuel "Manny" Vargas)
"Dear Update Readers and Manny,

"While I was driving one day, I noticed a caution sign that read 'DEAF CHILD AREA'. I thought of the benefit this type of sign could be for our son, if only it read 'BLIND CHILD AREA'. Our youngest child, Dominick, born premature, had developed Retinopathy, leaving him totally blind. On occasion, Dominick has left the house unaccompanied and once was found down the street by a neighbor. Although installing a gate at the front door seems to have remedied this, I always felt it important to let the community know that a blind child lived in the area, specifically as a caution to drivers to be more observant of their speeding and driving habits.

"Initiated by our son's increasing desires to be outside, in December 1994, I started exploring how to get a traffic caution sign that read 'BLIND CHILD AREA' for our street. I heard every excuse why traffic engineers couldn't install such a sign. 'Where would we set it?' 'Your street isn't long enough.' 'We have never created one before.'

"Approximately a year later and very frustrated, I let our DDD case manager Manuel (Manny) Vargas, know what I was trying to accomplish. Manny got involved and the city traffic department finally agreed to install the sign. After two cancelled installation dates, Manny supported us in discussions of what to do next. Frustration was so great that on January 31, 1996 I called Manny about going to see the Mayor. Immediately after hanging up with Manny, I looked

outside and with delight saw our sign being installed, actually two signs. Two beautiful brand new yellow caution signs. They read 'BLIND CHILD AREA'. The first ever 'Blind Child Caution Signs' in the city.

"The leading reason why I am writing this letter is to recognize Manuel (Manny) Vargas for working with us by making phone calls, preparing documentations, and for going out of his way to help.

"Manny, it's nice to know that you are on our side. You agree to support us when we need support and you make us feel important, not just an obligation.

"I know DDD case managers have big case loads. Nevertheless, Manny consistently seems organized and to be on top of his work. He always is willing to offer his time and support. If there is ever a reward for a CASE MANAGER THAT IS DEDICATED TO HIS WORK AND THEN SOME, MANNY DESERVES IT!!!

THANK YOU ONCE MORE MANNY, FOR EVERYTHING.

"Contact your local traffic engineering office if you need information about caution signs in your community. Our signs are located south of Olive on 56th Avenue, if you need proof that this can be done."

"Thanks,

"Danyale Strickler"

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
For alternative format/reasonable accommodations 602-542-6825



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— Moving People Toward Self-Sufficiency